

REMARKS

Applicants have read and considered the Office Action dated January 10, 2007 and the reference cited therein. Claims 22 and 36 have been amended. Claims 1-39 remain pending in the subject application. Claims 1, 22 and 36 are independent.

In the Official Action, claims 1-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0036617 to Pryor (“Pryor”). Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection in view of the cited reference is not appropriate for the reasons set forth above.

According to the Applicant’s invention as recited by independent claim 1, Applicant provides a sports simulation system comprising a projectile tracking apparatus including a display surface on which a visually apparent three-dimensional sports scene is presented. The projectile tracking apparatus captures images of a projectile tracking region disposed in front of the display surface to detect a launched projectile traveling through the projectile tracking region towards the display surface. At least one processing stage receives the image data and determines the three-dimensional *positions, velocity and deceleration/acceleration of a detected projectile traveling through said projectile tracking region, the three-dimensional positions, velocity and deceleration/acceleration being used by said at least one processing stage to calculate a trajectory of said launched projectile into said visually apparent three-dimensional sports scene.*

In contrast, Pryor discloses man-machine interfaces and applications. In the embodiments of Figures 1a to 1d, the interface comprises either a single camera or a pair of cameras to capture images in front of a display screen. Images captured by the camera(s) are processed to detect objects (either static or moving) in the captured images. The detected objects are then used to provide input to a computer. Although Pryor discloses many embodiments of a man-machine interface, none of the man-machine interfaces shows all of the features of the Applicant’s invention as recited by independent claim 1.

In particular, contrary to the allegation of the Office Action, Pryor does not teach or suggest processing two-dimensional projectile coordinates to determine the velocity and deceleration/acceleration of the projectile and using this information to calculate a trajectory of the launched projectile. The paragraphs of Pryor identified by the Office Action as being

relevant to this claimed subject matter have nothing to do with the calculation of projectile acceleration/deceleration. Pryor simply discloses detecting the existence of static and moving objects within the fields of view of the cameras. As Pryor fails to teach or suggest the Applicant's invention as recited in independent claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that this claim and the claims dependent thereon distinguish patentably over the cited reference and should be allowed.

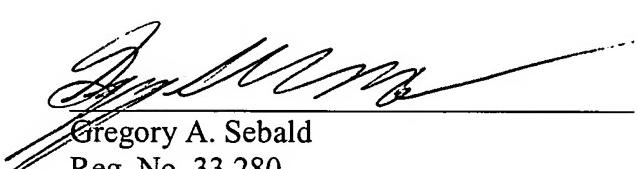
Independent claims 22 and 36 as amended recite subject matter analogous to that recited in independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims and the claims dependent thereon distinguish patentably over the cited reference and should be allowed.

In view of the above, it is believed the application is in order for allowance and action to that end is respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that a telephone interview may be helpful in this matter, please contact Applicant's representative at 612.336.4728.

Respectfully submitted,

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